

Little Jacks Creek Wilderness Study Area

1. The Study Area -- 58,040 acres

The Little Jacks Creek WSA (ID-111-6) is located in Owyhee County about 65 miles south of Boise, Idaho. The WSA includes 58,040 acres of BLM lands, three state inholdings totaling 1,920 acres and four privately owned inholdings totaling 240 acres (see Table 1).

The WSA is bounded on the northwest by the Mud Flat Road, on the southeast by an underground natural gas pipeline corridor, while most of the remainder of the WSA is bounded by primitive dirt roads. Several cherry-stem roads (7.5 miles) enter the area.

The WSA consists of two major canyon systems separated by a sagebrush- and grass-covered basalt dome. Little Jacks Creek Canyon is a spectacular 27-mile long, multi-tiered, 1,000-foot deep canyon system. Five miles to the northwest the 600-foot deep and 12-mile long Shoofly Creek Canyon provides stark contrast to the surrounding hills and plateaus. The canyons contain 23 miles of perennial streams surrounded by dense riparian vegetation.

The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and was included in the Management Framework Plan (MFP) for the Bruneau Resource Area finalized in March 1983. The recommendation for wilderness was evaluated in the Jacks Creek Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement filed in July 1989. Six alternatives were analyzed in the EIS: a partial wilderness alternative where 32,970 acres would be designated as wilderness and 25,070 acres released for nonwilderness uses, which is the recommendation of this report; no wilderness and all wilderness alternatives; and three partial wilderness alternatives where 49,660 acres, 32,210 acres and 6,350 acres would be designated as wilderness and 8,380 acres, 25,830 acres and 51,690 acres, respectively, would be released for other uses. An additional 1,030 acre tract of BLM land adjacent to the WSA was included in the study process under authority granted in Section 202 of FLPMA and is recommended for wilderness designation.

2. Recommendation and Rationale

34,000 acres recommended for wilderness

25,070 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for the Little Jacks Creek WSA is to designate 34,000 acres, including 1,030 acres adjacent to the WSA, as wilderness and release 28,070 acres for other uses. The environmentally preferable alternative is the all wilderness alternative. It would cause the least change from the natural environment over the long term. The recommendation would use all practical means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts.

The 34,000 acres of federal land recommended for wilderness designation are shown as the nonshaded area on the Little Jacks Creek Proposal map. The 1,030 acres adjacent to the southern part of the WSA are included with the area as wilderness. This recommendation for wilderness would further apply to any additional inholding acreage if acquired through exchange with the State of Idaho, and to a finger-like parcel of private land extending into the southern portion of the area, if the owner is willing to exchange. Appendix I lists all inholdings within the area recommended for wilderness and provides additional information on acquisition of these lands.

The 34,000 acres recommended for wilderness would enhance the National Wilderness Preservation System through the addition of 25 miles of spectacularly scenic canyons and surrounding 27,650 acres of plateau within 65 miles of Boise, Idaho. The area offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude within a natural setting. The area includes the habitat for over 150 California bighorn sheep, a wildlands-dependent species. Although designation of the area as wilderness would not add a new ecosystem to the wilderness system, it would add over 6,000 acres of sagebrush- and grass-covered plateau in good to excellent ecological condition.

The area recommended for wilderness is of low mineral resource potential and contains no mining claims or leases. The area can be managed in the long term to protect and maintain its wilderness characteristics. Wilderness designation of 34,000 acres of BLM land would provide long-term protection to California bighorn sheep habitat and to an exceptionally scenic area with outstanding wilderness values.

The 25,070 acres of BLM land not recommended for wilderness are shown as nonshaded Areas A through E on the Little Jacks Creek Proposal map. These areas are recommended for release for nonwilderness uses because of the following reasons:

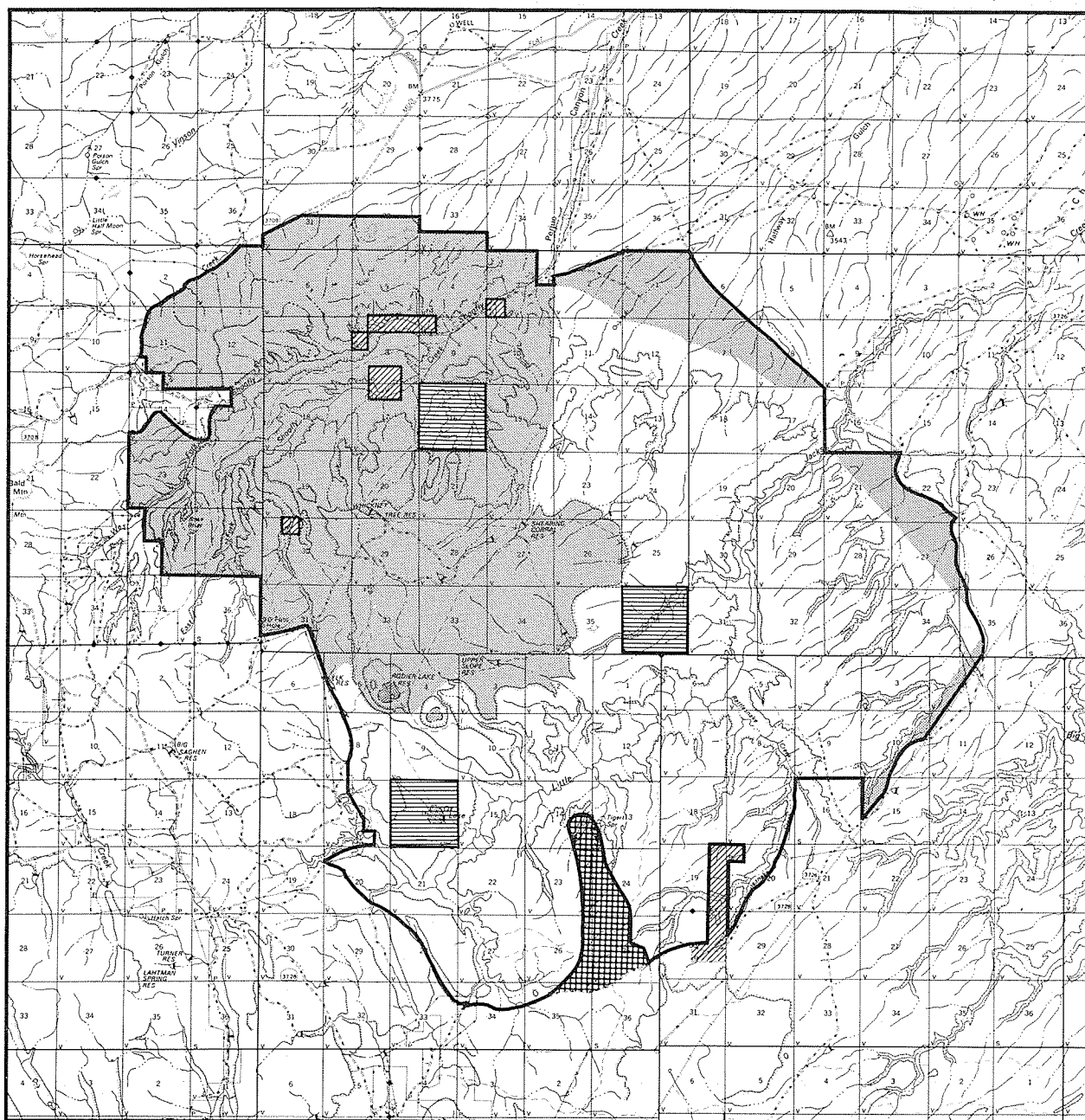
- AREA A: 3,300 acres on the WSA's northern boundary overlooking Mud Flat Road. This portion of the WSA is adjacent to the Mud Flat Road, a major access route to central Owyhee County. The road bed and its frequent vehicle traffic are visible throughout this area. Because of the influence of the adjacent road, this area lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.
- AREA B: 2,360 acres of the Little Jacks Creek WSA's northeast boundary. These two flat to gently sloping areas between an escarpment and WSA boundary roads contain no topographic, vegetative or soil barriers to discourage off-road vehicle use. Areas adjacent to this side of the WSA are used for desert motorcycle races and dispersed cross-country motorcycle use. The open low-lying terrain would make it difficult to enforce vehicle use restrictions if these areas were designated wilderness. Unintentional violations of these regulations would occur. The wilderness boundary

AREA B:
(continued) created by eliminating these areas would be clearly defined by a radical change in topography and would not require a management presence to discourage or prevent unauthorized vehicle use.

AREA C: 2,720 acres in Shoofly/Perjue Canyons. This area would be difficult to manage as wilderness because of the pattern of land ownership. There are four private parcels and a state section within a two-mile radius. A two-mile cherry-stem road provides access to three of the private inholdings which are located in the canyon bottom. If the private lands could not be acquired by BLM, nonconforming uses on the private inholdings could compromise naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the federal portions of the canyon. Visitors to these canyons would be on private land or adjacent to the access road about 60 percent of the time.

AREA D: 16,570 acres on Wickney Tree Dome and in Shoofly/Perjue Canyons. This portion of the Little Jacks Creek WSA contains about six miles of cherry-stem roads which provide access to livestock reservoirs. Closure of the road system to public use would be necessary to maintain wilderness characteristics on this sloping lava dome, known as Wickney Tree Dome, which separates the Little Jacks and Shoofly canyon systems. Such a road closure would be difficult to enforce. A nonwilderness recommendation would allow the construction of a proposed eight-mile livestock watering pipeline and more intensive use by domestic livestock. It would also permit a proposed spraying and seeding project on about 160 acres. If Wickney Tree Dome is not designated as wilderness, then the remainder of AREA D (Shoofly/Perjue Canyon) is cut off from the portion of the WSA recommended for wilderness and would be difficult to manage as wilderness.







AREA E: 120 acres adjacent to the natural gas pipeline that separates Little Jacks Creek and Big Jacks Creek WSAs. Recommending this area for nonwilderness would allow for a .75-mile wide corridor between the proposed Big Jacks Creek and Little Jacks Creek wilderness area to accommodate future underground utility right-of-way needs. Underground utility line construction would adversely impact naturalness and motorized vehicles and equipment would be needed for construction and maintenance.

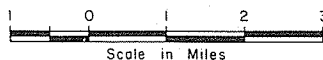


R.1 E. | R.2 E.

R.2 E. |

R.3 E. |

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------|
|  | RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS |  | SPLIT ESTATE |
|  | RECOMMENDED FOR NONWILDERNESS |  | STATE |
|  | LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS |  | PRIVATE |



ID-111-6
LITTLE JACKS CREEK
PROPOSAL

FEBRUARY 1989

**Table 1 -- Land Status and Acreage Summary of the Study Area
LITTLE JACKS CREEK WSA**

Within Wilderness Study Area

BLM (surface and subsurface)	58,040
Split Estate (BLM surface only)	0
Inholdings (state, private)	2,160
Total	60,200

Within the Recommended Wilderness Boundary

BLM (within WSA)	32,970
BLM (outside WSA)	1,030
Split Estate (within WSA)	0
Split Estate (outside WSA)	0
Total BLM Land Recommended for Wilderness	34,000
Inholdings (state, private) ¹	1,590
State land (outside WSA)	0

Within the Area Not Recommended for Wilderness

BLM	25,070
Split Estate	0
Total BLM Land Not Recommended for Wilderness	25,070
Inholdings (state, private)	880

¹Appendix I is a detailed description of inholdings included within the area recommended for designation.

3. Criteria Considered in Developing the Wilderness Recommendations

Wilderness Characteristics

A. Naturalness

The Little Jacks Creek WSA consists of major canyon systems separated by a plateau. Numerous wildlife species including California bighorn sheep, mule deer, sage grouse, mountain quail, raptors and redband trout are found in the area. The WSA is predominantly natural with negligible human imprints. Signs of humans are nine small livestock water developments, 1.5 miles of fence, about ten miles of primitive vehicle routes (ways) and 7.5 miles of cherry-stem roads. In addition, a wildlife guzzler, 1.4 miles of livestock water pipeline and a telephone microwave tower are located on Wickney Tree Dome (Area D) which has not been recommended for wilderness.

B. Solitude

Opportunities for solitude are outstanding in most of the WSA because of its large size and excellent vegetative and topographic screening in the canyons.

The best opportunities for solitude are in the 40-plus miles of tightly meandering canyons where dense riparian vegetation shields visitors from adjacent groups. The meandering canyons limit views to less than .5 mile and often no more than a few hundred yards.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are also found on the plateaus due to their spaciousness, remoteness and views of canyon chasms and surrounding hills.

Opportunities for solitude are less outstanding in Area A because of the impact of adjacent Mud Flat Road. Low elevation flights by military aircraft occasionally disrupt opportunities for solitude throughout the WSA. The entire southwest corner of Idaho is used for training military pilots in subsonic low elevation flight. Disruptions of solitude are usually brief, although occasionally aircraft can be seen or heard throughout the day.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Most of Little Jacks Creek WSA has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation because of its 40-plus miles of spectacular canyons, its broad landform diversity, 23 miles of perennial streams with excellent trout fishing and because of frequent opportunities to view California bighorn sheep, pronghorn and mule deer. Area A, 3,300 acres, is the only portion of the WSA lacking in outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation (see Solitude).

California bighorn sheep are a primary attraction of the area. Bighorn sheep are second only to grizzly as the species most sought after by serious wildlife viewers, while many hunters consider bighorn sheep the premier trophy species in North America. Opportunities to view the sheep are excellent and visitors who walk two or three miles through the thick riparian brush in the canyon are usually rewarded with glimpses of sheep scampering on the cliffs above.

The canyons of the Shoofly and Little Jacks Creek drainages provide a spectacular backdrop for recreational activities. Little Jacks Creek Canyon is more than 1,000 feet deep in places and is characterized by successive tiers of talus slopes and precipitous cliffs alternating from the plateau rim to the canyon floor. In contrast to the more open, expansive panoramas in Little Jacks Creek Canyon, the extremely narrow Rattlesnake Creek tributary canyon provides a vertical-walled enclosure giving a sense of remoteness and isolation from the surrounding landscape. The tributary canyons offer corridors, hidden pools, dry waterfalls and tiny green oases left behind by their intermittent streams.

Throughout the Little Jacks Creek WSA, opportunities for dispersed recreation are outstanding. Frequent visitor use can be expected not only in the stream canyons but also along the miles of plateau rims where vistas are commonplace.

Fishing is excellent in the 23 miles of perennial streams in Little Jacks Creek and Shoofly Creek Canyons. The streams are home to redband trout, a desert-adapted species.

A growing attraction is the near-pristine sagebrush/grasslands that separate Little Jacks Creek and Big Jacks Creek canyons. In these areas, stands of perennial grasses have obscured the usually dominant sagebrush. These remnant grasslands have special significance. They are a contrast to the sagebrush-dominated plains that now characterize most of the high desert throughout the west.

D. Special Features

The WSA has many special features including spectacular scenery; rare, near-pristine sagebrush steppe grasslands; valuable archaeological sites; and wildlife habitat for California bighorn sheep, redband trout and mountain quail.

The WSA abounds in exceptionally scenic natural features including the 1,000-foot deep canyon of Little Jacks Creek, narrow grotto-like tributary canyons, wind-sculpted arches, springs and rolling plateaus dominated by waving perennial grasses.

The Little Jacks Creek WSA supports a population of 150-plus California bighorn sheep. This population is about four percent of all California bighorn sheep in the world. Because of their relative intolerance to the presence of humans, sheep are a wildlands-or wilderness-dependent species. They are classified as sensitive.

The WSA includes 23 miles of redband trout habitat. This desert species is found only in southern Idaho, eastern Oregon and northern Nevada. Because of its limited range, this species has also been classified as a sensitive species.

Mountain quail is yet another sensitive species found in the canyons of Little Jacks Creek WSA. Little information is known about these native quail except that their population numbers have declined dramatically since the 1950s. One sensitive plant, *Pediocactus simpsonii* var. *robustior*, is found in the WSA.

On the lava dome separating Shoofly and Little Jacks Canyons, a series of low rock walls, known as the Shoofly Rock Alignments, are probable remnants of a prehistoric game drive where pronghorn antelope were once hunted by bands of Indians. This site has been proposed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Several prehistoric campsites have also been located adjacent to the Shoofly Rock Alignments.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

A. Assessing the Diversity of Natural Systems and Features as Represented by Ecosystems

Wilderness designation of the Little Jacks Creek WSA would not add a new ecosystem to the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS); however, it would add a landform and vegetative type not presently represented in the Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem. This WSA is particularly valuable since more than 6,000 acres of the sagebrush steppe plateau are in good ecological condition and are characteristic of pre-settlement vegetation. This ecosystem is represented by three designated areas with 76,699 acres. There are 35 other BLM areas in the state under study with this ecosystem. This information is summarized on Table 2.

TABLE 2
Ecosystem Representation

Bailey-Kuchler Classification	NWPS Areas		Other BLM Studies	
	areas	acres	areas	acres
Dry Domain/Intermountain Sagebrush Province				
			<u>NATIONWIDE</u>	
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	3	76,699	136	4,359,340
			<u>IDAHO</u>	
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	1	12,997	35	949,916
			<u>NEVADA</u>	
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	1	32,407	29	1,273,919
			<u>CALIFORNIA</u>	
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	0	0	5	152,431
			<u>OREGON</u>	
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	0	0	67	1,983,074

**B. Expanding the Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Recreation
Within a Day's Driving Time (Five Hours) of Major Population Centers:**

The Little Jacks Creek WSA is within a five-hour drive from Boise, Idaho. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of designated areas and other BLM study areas within a five-hour drive of the population center.

Table 3
**Wilderness Opportunities for Residents
of Major Population Centers**

Population Centers	<u>NWPS Areas</u>		<u>Other BLM Studies</u>	
	areas	acres	areas	acres
Boise, Idaho	16	4,741,570	141	5,374,250

C. Balancing the Geographic Distribution of Wilderness Areas

The Little Jacks Creek WSA would add to the geographical distribution of areas within the NWPS. Regionally, the WSA would add a desert canyon and plateau area not found in designated wilderness and would help to balance opportunities to attain diverse wilderness experiences.

Manageability

The portion of the WSA recommended for wilderness designation can be managed in the long term to protect and maintain its wilderness characteristics and values. It contains no mining claims or mineral leases. The two inconspicuous livestock water developments are serviced by primitive vehicle routes. Rough topography and rocky soils would prevent or discourage motorized vehicle use in the vast majority of the proposed wilderness area.

It would be difficult to manage the following portions of the WSA recommended for nonwilderness to preserve wilderness characteristics.

About 3,300 acres on the northwest boundary of the WSA (Area A) would be difficult to manage as wilderness because of the impacts of the adjacent Mud Flat Road on solitude and primitive recreation. This road is a major access route to central Owyhee County. The road bed and its frequent vehicle traffic are visible throughout this 3,300 acre area.

On the WSA's northeast boundary, 2,360 acres (Area B) would be difficult to manage in the long term as wilderness. These are two flat to gently sloping areas that lie between an escarpment and WSA boundary roads. There are no topographic, vegetative or soil barriers to discourage off-road vehicle use on these areas. Areas adjacent to this side of the WSA are used for desert motorcycle races and dispersed cross-country motorcycle use. The open low-lying terrain would make it difficult to enforce vehicle use restrictions if these areas were included in the wilderness. Unintentional violations of these regulations would occur. The wilderness boundary created by eliminating these areas would be clearly defined by a radical change in topography and would not require a management presence to discourage or prevent unauthorized vehicle use.

In Shoofly/Perjue Canyons, 2,720 acres (Area C) would be difficult to manage as wilderness because of the overall pattern of land ownership. There are four private parcels and a state section within a two-mile radius. A two-mile cherry-stem road provides access to three of the private inholdings which are located in the canyon bottom. If the inholdings were not acquired by BLM, nonconforming uses on the private inholdings could compromise naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the canyon.

On Wickney Tree Dome and upper Shoofly Canyon, there are 16,570 acres (Area D) that include six miles of cherry-stem roads which provide access to livestock reservoirs. Much of this plateau area is drivable by motorized vehicles. Frequent vehicle traffic would disrupt opportunities for solitude in much of the area. Closure of this road system to the general public would be difficult but necessary to maintain outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Energy and Minerals Resource Values

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Bureau of Mines (BM) completed a mineral assessment for 34,000 acres of the Little Jacks Creek WSA in 1987.

Investigations conducted by the USGS and BM revealed no identified minerals and a low mineral resource potential for metals, oil and gas, and geothermal energy.

No mines, prospects, mineralized areas, patented mining claims or mineral leases were identified in the WSA. Sand, gravel and industrial rock resources are present but sufficient quantities are available elsewhere to satisfy current local needs.

Impacts on Resources

The following comparative impact table summarizes the effects on pertinent resources for all alternatives including designation or nondesignation of the entire area as wilderness.

Table 4
Comparative Summary of the Impacts by Alternative
WSA ID-111-6 (LITTLE JACKS CREEK)

ISSUE TOPICS	PROPOSED ACTION	ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ALL MANAGEABLE WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	MINIMUM RE- SOURCE CONFLICT ALTERNATIVE	RIM-TO-RIM WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
Impacts on Wilderness Values (continued next page)	<p>WILDERNESS (34,000 acres) Naturalness and opportunities for solitude/primitive recreation should be enhanced on about 120 acres. About 13.6 miles of redband trout habitat would benefit from improved riparian condition. California bighorn sheep populations would remain at or near the habitat carrying capacity of approximately 200 animals within the WSA.</p> <p>NONWILDERNESS (25,070 acres) Naturalness would be lost on 9,700 acres. Opportunities for solitude/primitive recreation would be diminished on about 8,800 acres. About 4.3 miles of redband trout habitat would benefit from improved riparian condition. Scientific/ecological values could be diminished on 1,650 acres of good condition sagebrush steppe rangeland. The Shoofly Rock Alignments and associated surface sites could be impacted by increased livestock trampling. If private lands in Shoofly Canyon are developed, there would be additional loss of naturalness and opportunities for solitude/primitive recreation on 2,725 acres. The development of these private lands could also preclude use of about 5% of the existing bighorn sheep habitat and cause decline of 1.6 miles of redband habitat. Results of the displacement of bighorn could range from no effect on population numbers to a small permanent reduction (5-10 animals) in herd size. Bighorn sheep populations would remain at or near the habitat carrying capacity.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS (58,040 acres) Naturalness and opportunities for solitude/primitive recreation would be enhanced on about 210 acres. About 17.9 miles of redband trout habitat would benefit from improved riparian condition. Scientific/ecological values could be diminished on 2,100 acres of good condition sagebrush steppe rangeland. Vandalism (illegal excavations) of archaeological sites would be reduced and vehicle damage to Shoofly Rock Alignments would be halted. California bighorn sheep populations would remain at or near the habitat carrying capacity of 200 animals within the WSA.</p>	<p>NONWILDERNESS (58,040 acres) Naturalness would be lost on 9,800 acres. Opportunities for solitude/primitive recreation would be diminished on about 8,800 acres. About 17.9 miles of redband trout habitat would benefit from improved riparian condition. Scientific/ecological values could be diminished on 3,750 acres of good condition sagebrush steppe rangeland. The Shoofly Rock Alignments and associated surface sites could be impacted by increased livestock trampling. If private lands in Shoofly Canyon are developed, there would be an additional loss of naturalness and opportunities for solitude/primitive recreation on 2,725 acres. The development of these private lands could also preclude use of about 5% of the existing bighorn sheep habitat and cause decline of 1.6 miles of redband habitat. Results of the displacement of bighorn could range from no effect on population numbers to a small permanent reduction (5-10 animals) in herd size. California bighorn sheep populations would remain at or near the habitat carrying capacity of 20 animals within the WSA. Construction of new underground utilities outside the .25-mile utility corridor could result in loss of naturalness and diminished opportunities for solitude/primitive recreation in areas visible from new utility paths and associated service roads.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS (50,690 acres) Naturalness and opportunities for solitude/primitive recreation would be enhanced on about 230 acres. About 17.9 miles of redband trout habitat would benefit from improved riparian condition. Scientific/ecological values could be diminished on 2,100 acres of good condition sagebrush steppe rangeland. Vandalism (illegal excavations) of archaeological sites would be reduced and vehicle damage to Shoofly Rock Alignments would be halted. California bighorn sheep populations would remain at or near the habitat carrying capacity of 200 animals within the WSA.</p> <p>NONWILDERNESS (8,380 acres) Naturalness would be lost on 240 acres. If private lands in Shoofly Canyon are developed, there would be additional loss of naturalness and opportunities for solitude/primitive recreation on 2,725 acres. Development of these private lands could also preclude use of about 5% of the existing bighorn sheep habitat and cause decline of 1.6 miles of redband habitat. Results of the displacement of bighorn could range from no effect on population numbers to a small permanent reduction (5-10 animals) in herd size. Bighorn sheep populations would remain at or near the habitat carrying capacity.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS (32,210 acres) Same as the Proposed Action.</p> <p>NONWILDERNESS (25,830 acres) Naturalness would be lost on 9,800 acres. Opportunities for solitude/primitive recreation would be diminished on about 8,800 acres. About 4.3 miles of redband trout habitat would benefit from improved riparian condition. Scientific/ecological values could be diminished on 1,650 acres of good condition sagebrush steppe rangeland. The Shoofly Rock Alignments and associated surface sites could be impacted by increased livestock trampling. If private lands in Shoofly Canyon are developed, there would be an additional loss of naturalness and opportunities for solitude/primitive recreation on 2,725 acres. The development of these private lands could also preclude use of about 5% of the existing bighorn sheep habitat and cause decline of 1.6 miles of redband habitat. Results of the displacement of bighorn could range from no effect on population numbers to a small permanent reduction (5-10 animals) in herd size. Bighorn sheep populations would remain at or near the habitat carrying capacity.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS (6,350 acres) Naturalness and opportunities for solitude/primitive recreation would be maintained on 6,350 acres. About 13.6 miles of redband trout habitat would benefit from improved riparian condition. California bighorn sheep populations would remain at or near the habitat carrying capacity of 200 animals within the WSA.</p> <p>NONWILDERNESS (51,690 acres) Naturalness would be lost on 9,800 acres. Opportunities for solitude/primitive recreation would be diminished on about 8,800 acres. About 4.3 miles of redband trout habitat would benefit from improved riparian condition. Scientific/ecological values could be diminished on 3,750 acres of good condition sagebrush steppe rangeland. The Shoofly Rock Alignments and associated surface sites could be impacted by increased livestock trampling. If private lands in Shoofly Canyon are developed, there would be an additional loss of naturalness and opportunities for solitude/primitive recreation on 2,725 acres. The development of these private lands could also preclude use of about 5% of the existing bighorn sheep habitat and cause decline of 1.6 miles of redband habitat. Results of the displacement of bighorn could range from no effect on population numbers to a small permanent reduction (5-10 animals) in herd size. Bighorn sheep populations would remain at or near the habitat carrying capacity. Construction of new underground utilities outside</p>

Issue Topics	Proposed Action	All Wilderness Alternative	No Wilderness/ No Action Alternative	All Manageable Wilderness Alternative	Minimum Resource Conflict Alternative	Rim to Rim Wilderness Alternative
Impacts on Wilderness Values (cont)(Little Jacks Creek WSA)						the .25-mile utility corridor could also result in loss of naturalness and diminished opportunities for solitude/ primitive recreation in areas visible from new utility paths and associated service roads.
Impacts on Recreation Use	<p>WILDERNESS Annual recreation use would be 2,575 visitor days, an increase of 1,375 annual visitor days over current use. The major use areas would be Little Jacks Creek Canyon with use about 30% hunting and 70% nonhunting. There would be no significant impact on opportunities to participate in ORV use or hunting.</p> <p>NONWILDERNESS Annual recreation use would be 1,475 visitor days, an increase of 1,025 annual visitor days over current use. The major use areas would be Shoo-fly Creek canyons with use about 30% hunting and 70% nonhunting. Opportunities to participate in ORV use or hunting would not be affected.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS Annual recreation use would be 4,100 visitor days, an increase of 2,450 visitor days over current use. Major use areas would be Little Jacks Creek and Shoo-fly Creek canyons with use about 30% hunting and 70% nonhunting. Opportunities to participate in ORV use or hunting are not expected to be significantly impacted, although there could be displacement of some sage grouse hunters.</p>	<p>NONWILDERNESS Annual recreation use would be 4,050 visitor days, an increase of 2,400 annual visitor days over current use. Major use areas would be Little Jacks Creek and Shoo-fly Creek canyons with use about 30% hunting and 70% nonhunting. Opportunities to participate in ORV use or hunting would not be affected.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS Same as the All Wilderness Alternative.</p> <p>NONWILDERNESS No significant impact.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS Same as the Proposed Action.</p> <p>NONWILDERNESS Same as the Proposed Action.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS Annual recreation would be 2,475 visitor days, an increase of 1,325 annual visitor days over current use. The major use areas would be Little Jacks Creek Canyon with use about 30% hunting and 70% nonhunting. Opportunities to participate in ORV use or hunting would not be affected.</p> <p>NONWILDERNESS Annual recreation use would be 1,575 visitor days, an increase of 1,175 annual visitor days over current use. The major use areas would be Shoo-fly Creek canyons with use about 30% hunting and 70% nonhunting. Opportunities to participate in ORV use or hunting would not be affected.</p>
Impacts on Selected Wildlife Species	<p>WILDERNESS Mule deer would increase up to 5%. Pronghorn would increase up to 5%. Sage grouse would increase up to 10%.</p> <p>NONWILDERNESS Mule deer would increase up to 5%. Pronghorn would increase up to 5%. Sage grouse would increase up to 10%.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS Same as the Proposed Action.</p>	<p>NONWILDERNESS Same as the Proposed Action.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS Same as Proposed Action.</p> <p>NONWILDERNESS Same as Proposed Action.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS Same as the Proposed Action.</p> <p>NONWILDERNESS Same as the Proposed Action.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS Mule deer, pronghorn and sage grouse populations would remain stable.</p> <p>NONWILDERNESS Same as Proposed Action.</p>
Impacts on Income and Jobs	<p>WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS There would be \$89,502 additional annual income and 6 new jobs. Implementation costs would total \$71,200 for range improvements and \$4,600 annually for wilderness management.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS There would be \$71,626 of additional annual income and 5.8 new jobs. Implementation costs would total \$32,900 for range improvements and \$444,600 annually for wilderness management.</p>	<p>NONWILDERNESS There would be \$106,750 of additional annual income and 6.4 new jobs. Implementation costs would total \$86,200 for range improvements.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS There would be \$86,124 of additional annual income and 5.7 new jobs. Implementation costs would total \$40,200 for range improvements and \$4,600 annually for wilderness management.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS There would be \$94,734 of additional annual income and 6.2 new jobs. Implementation costs would total \$86,200 for range improvements and \$4,600 annually for wilderness management.</p>	<p>WILDERNESS/ NONWILDERNESS There would be \$106,750 of additional annual income and 6.4 new jobs. Implementation costs would total \$86,200 for range improvements and \$4,600 annually for wilderness management.</p>

Local Social and Economic Considerations

Designation of the entire Little Jacks Creek WSA or any portion of the WSA as wilderness would have no significant social or economic effects on Owyhee County.

Summary of WSA-Specific Public Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Certain comments received during the inventory process and early stages of the EIS preparation were used to develop significant study issues and various alternatives for the ultimate management of those lands found to have wilderness values.

During the wilderness inventory for the Little Jacks Creek roadless unit, 22 comments supported the establishment of a WSA and 24 opposed it. Reasons cited among those who supported the establishment of a WSA were: the area has few human imprints (11 comments); an abundance of wildlife (seven comments); good opportunities for primitive recreation (three comments); and archaeological sites (three comments). Those opposed to designation of the WSA cited: the area is criss-crossed by numerous roads (23 comments); the area has potential for increased livestock grazing (22 comments); the area has been proposed for a livestock watering pipeline (21 comments); solitude is disrupted by frequent U.S. Air Force jet flights (21 comments); water developments and fences preclude naturalness (18 comments); solitude is disrupted by regular air patrol of the natural gas pipeline; the area lacks drinking water (five comments); and the area is too open, hot and barren for primitive recreation (four comments).

During the public review of the Bruneau MFP, 69 out of 76 comments supported wilderness designation. Proponents of wilderness cited the following reasons: bighorn sheep habitat (17 comments); ecological values of relatively undisturbed vegetation communities (12 comments); wildlife habitat (nine comments); quality of wilderness characteristics (nine comments); redband trout habitat (four comments); and opportunities for primitive recreation (three comments).

During the public review of the Draft Jacks Creek Wilderness EIS, a total of 151 written and oral comments addressing this WSA were received. Public hearings were held in Boise and Grand View, Idaho. Eighty-five commenters supported wilderness designation for all or portions of the WSA; forty commenters supported no wilderness for the WSA; while 26 commenters took no formal position on wilderness designation.

Among those supporting wilderness, 80 percent were Idaho residents, a majority from Ada County; 12 percent were from other western states; and eight percent were residents of eastern states. By far the most prevalent reason cited for wilderness designation was preservation of wildlife habitat, particularly California bighorn sheep habitat. The second most frequently cited reason for supporting wilderness designation was protection of pristine high desert ecosystems. Other reasons in support of wilderness were to provide primitive recreation opportunities and solitude, to preserve scenic quality, to protect archaeological values, the proximity to Boise, Idaho, and to maximize protection of fisheries and riparian habitat. Twelve wilderness supporters pointed out that wilderness designation would have minimal resource conflicts with other resource uses.

About 85 percent of the comments opposing wilderness designation were from local residents with about 40 percent from Owyhee County, 35 percent from Ada County, and ten percent from Canyon and Elmore Counties. The remaining 15 percent were from residents of other western states. Twenty-two of these commenters believe that wilderness designation would discriminate against senior citizens and the handicapped. Other reasons for opposing wilderness were bighorn sheep do not need wilderness, wilderness is not effective management (too inflexible and costly), wilderness is not multiple

use, Idaho has enough wilderness, wilderness values do not need wilderness designation for protection, wilderness would close the door to future oil and gas exploration work.

Several agencies commented on the Draft EIS. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Air Force and Idaho Department of Fish and Game supported wilderness designation. The Owyhee County Commissioners opposed designation. The Federal Aviation Agency, Environmental Protection Agency and the Idaho State Historical Society did not express an alternative preference.

APPENDIX I -- LITTLE JACKS CREEK WSA
Estimated Costs of Acquisition of Nonfederal Holdings
Within Areas Recommended for Designation(1)

Legal Description	Total Acreage	Number of Owners	Type of Ownership by Estate	Type of Ownership by Estate	Presently Proposed for Acquisition	Preferred Method of Acquisition	Estimated Cost of Acquisition	Estimated Cost of Acquisition
			Surface Estate	Subsurface Estate			Land Costs (in \$)	Processing Costs (in \$)
Parcel No. 1 T. 8 S., R. 2 E. Sec. 36	640	1	State	State	Yes	Exchange	N/A	3,400
Parcel No. 2 T. 9 S., R. 2 E. Sec. 16	640	1	State	State	Yes	Exchange	N/A	3,400
Parcel No. 3(2) T. 9 S., R. 3 E. Sec. 19 (E1/2E1/2) Sec. 20 (NW1/4NW1/4) Sec. 30 (E1/2NE1/4, N1/2SE1/4)	360(3)	1	Private	Private	Yes	Exchange	N/A	15,000

(1)The estimated costs listed in this appendix in no way represent a formal appraised value of the land or mineral estate but are rough estimates based on sales or exchanges of lands or mineral estates with similar characteristics to those included in the WSA. The estimates are for purposes of establishing a range of potential costs to the government of acquiring nonfederal holdings and in no way represent an offer to purchase or exchange at the cost estimate included in this appendix.

(2)Finger-like protrusion into southern part of WSA - outside WSA but adjacent to WSA boundaries - acquisition from willing owner would improve wilderness manageability.

(3)310 acres of this parcel within boundary of proposed wilderness.